

and National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRs). NPS regulations to implement the concealed carry provisions of PL 111-24 became effective on February 10, 2010 and included all firearms legal in the jurisdiction in which the park was located. Park Service regulations continue to exclude bow and arrows in the National Parks. In some locations this effectively limits bowhunter access to hunt other adjacent BLM, USFS or private lands that are otherwise open to hunting and can now be legally accessed through NPS or NWRs lands by firearms hunters.

36 CFR 2.4 d 4 allows the possibly of permitting for such access through NPS lands where it is otherwise impossible or impractical to make other access except through NPS lands. In 2009 one such request for permitting for Dinosaur National Monument was denied by the Park Superintendent, effectively denying practical bowhunter access to some BLM and state school lands. Firearms hunters may now access these lands across NPS lands without any requirement for permitting.

Similar access issues occur in several of Colorado's game management units bounding on Dinosaur National Monument. These situations likely occur at many National Parks and National Monuments both in Colorado and other states. Attempts to rectify this situation through an administrative rule making process in the Department of the Interior have been denied.

The undersigned sportsmen, representing several major sportsmen's groups and retailers in Colorado request that, barring any change in the DOI stance, legislative action be taken to give bowhunters with archery equipment equal rights in crossing NPS and NWRs as that enjoyed by those carrying firearms.

Sincerely,

Tim Mauck & Gaspar Perricone, Co-founders, Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance; Ivan James, Vice-Chairman for Legislation, Colorado Bowhunters Association; Robert Ong, President, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Society; John Smeltzer, President, Colorado Wildlife Federation; Dean Derby, President, Colorado Traditional Archery Society; Bob Hewson, Executive Director, Colorado Youth Outdoors; Robert Hix, Colorado Regional Director, Pheasants Forever, Inc.; Joel Webster, Director—Center for Western Lands, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; John & Kathy Tidwell, Owners, Bear Creek Archery Inc; Michael Lewellen, President, Colorado National Wild Turkey Federation; John Gale & David Lien, Co-Chairs, Colorado Back Country Hunters and Anglers.

Mr. BENNET. The overall sportsmen's package from Senator TESTER is also widely supported, ranging from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to the Boone and Crockett Club to the National Rifle Association. The Tester bill represent a bipartisan package of commonsense bills that will benefit our Nation's sports men and women. I want to thank Senator TESTER for his leadership on behalf of the West and urge a "yes" vote.

I will simply close by saying it is my fervent hope that once this election is over, some 45 days from now, we will come back to this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats together, and work to avoid surfing over this fiscal cliff that will be so damaging to this economy.

People at home know something that people here have not yet figured out, which is even if you believe you are always right on your side or had a monopoly of wisdom on your side—which I do not, but some people seem to—even if you believed it, we cannot accomplish this meaningful deficit reduction without doing it in a bipartisan way. It is impossible to do it without doing it in a bipartisan way.

People at home actually want to see it bipartisan, frankly, because they do not believe in either party's go-it-alone strategy when it comes to the debt and deficit. So my hope is this election will clear the air, we will get back to work, and that before January we will have something convincing to say to the American public on this subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I see no colleagues have come to the floor, so I want to speak on one additional topic. I will be brief, because I understand we likely won't have an opportunity to address this issue before we leave town.

My colleague Senator MARK UDALL and I have been working to provide resources for the USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, also known as EWP. The reason we have been doing this is that EWP resources help communities recover from wildfires, specifically watersheds that, after being burned, are unstable and risk harm to critical drinking water infrastructure and sometimes jeopardize human lives.

As many in this Chamber know, we had a number of devastating wildfires in Colorado this summer. In the communities of Fort Collins and Colorado Springs in particular, they are having trouble protecting their vital drinking water infrastructure as their watersheds recover. Despite a letter Senator UDALL and I authored to the appropriators, the House version of the continuing resolution did not contain this critical funding. That means the Senate won't be able to vote to help these communities recover. And while we are disappointed, we are going to continue to fight for these resources.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FARM BILL

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I see we have been joined by the Chair of the

Agriculture Committee, Senator STABENOW. She has just arrived, but I wanted to report to her that before she arrived I was talking about the need to pass a farm bill and the fact that, over the break, I had traveled 2,500 miles around the State of Colorado—in rural parts of our State on the west slope and on the eastern plains—and nobody wanted to talk about anything except why we can't get a farm bill passed. It makes no sense to them. They know it was completely bipartisan here in the Senate, and they know it is the only bipartisan piece of legislation with deficit reduction any committee of either Chamber has been able to accomplish.

In the case of Colorado farmers and ranchers, we are going through the worst drought we have had in a generation, and they want to know why Washington, DC, has a completely different set of priorities than they have.

There is still time for the House to pass this bill. This is the first time in modern history a House Ag Committee has passed out a bill—in this case a bipartisan bill, though not as good, I don't think, as ours, but a step forward—that hasn't come to the floor for a vote. They cannot even get a vote.

So while the Senator is here, I wanted to thank her, and I would also say to the ranking member of the committee if he were here, for their extraordinary bipartisan effort over the last 2 years that resulted in a very fine bill. I also think their work sets a model for the way we should be approaching our work in this Chamber.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, I did come to the floor to talk about the urgency of the farm bill, but I also want to thank my friend and colleague from Colorado, who chairs our conservation subcommittee, for the tremendous piece of work on the conservation title in the farm bill. I thank him for all of that effort and also say to him I understand what is happening in Colorado. As he and I know, we passed disaster assistance—a permanent livestock disaster assistance program—in our farm bill, along with help for food growers in Michigan and other places.

We are totally committed in the short run to helping those who have the riskiest business in the world, which is farming and ranching in this country, but we also know what they want is the economic certainty of a 5-year farm bill. So I thank my friend for all of his efforts and in coming to the floor.

I want to say, for the record, there are 10 days until September 30—10 days until the farm bill expires and 16 million people in this country who rely on agriculture for their jobs or their livelihood are put in limbo. That is the reality of where we are.

We worked so hard, on a bipartisan basis in the Senate, to pass a farm bill,